These tests have been done now in the interest of national security.

These tests have established that India has a proven capability for a weaponised nuclear programme. They also provide a valuable database which is useful in the design of nuclear weapons of different yields for different applications and for different delivery systems. Further, they are expected to carry Indian scientists towards a sound computer simulation capability which may be supported by sub-critical experiments, if considered necessary.

Companies engaged in Production of Electronic Items

175. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the names of the public and private sector units engaged in the production of electronic items in the country, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): Statewise list of public and private sector units reporting production to the Department of Electronics is given in Annexure. *[See Appendix 184, Annexure No. 2]* In addition, approximately 2000 cottage industrial units are also assembling electronic items.

Rationalisation of Import Duty on Colour Monitor

176. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)the number of total colour monitor produced in the country and the demand thereof at present;

(b)whether Government's attention has been drawn to the joint representation from domestic colour monitor manufacturers association regarding rationalisation of import duty, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated April 30, 1998; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) According to information available with the Department of Electronics, the production of computer monitors was about 3 lakhs against an estimated demand of 7 lakhs during the year 1997.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Domestic colour monitor manufacturers have represented regarding rationalisation of import duty on parts of monitor *vis-a-vis* colour monitor. The representation has been examined in this Department and it is found that there is no anomaly in the duty structure as mentioned in their representation. Moreover, the import duty on parts of colour monitors is already lower than that on finished colour monitors. Also, as per the Export Import Policy 1997—2000, colour monitor parts are freely importable whereas the colour monitors of CIF value upto Rs.7500 are allowed under Special Import Licence (SIL) thus adding additional protection.

Improvement of Relations with Foreign Countries

177. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government have taken any initiatives to improve and strengthen relations with neighbouring countries; and

(b)if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) It is Government's policy to make every effort to improve relations